Middlebury Apr. 30th — 49

Dear Brother;

While I acknowledge the receipt of your letter, written some time ago, I also have to confess my delinquency in delaying so long to answer it. But since I have become notorious for such delinquencies, perhaps it would not become me to apologize; for you would less expect it, and would be less inclined to believe me if I were to do so.

The college term closed with the Junior Exhibition, which came off last Tuesday evening. This was a grand affair and afforded a very agreeable entertainment for the students after the severe labors of the term. The pieces were written and spoken with much ability. The audience was large, and all appeared highly edified by the performances. I will not in this letter attempt a minute description of these, since it would doubtless afford you but little interest. I will only enclose a schedule from which you will be able to learn the general plan of the Exhibition.

I am spending the vacation here in Middlebury, amusing myself the best way that I can. It is rather lonely, as but few of the students spend vacation here; but the week will soon be over, and business will begin to move on again. I have occupied some portion of the time in reading and writing. Have just finished reading Prescott's Conquest of Peru. This

is an admirable work, and exceedingly interesting
There is an abundance of good reading to be found
in the libraries here, but I find time to improve
but little of it. Much pleasure and profit may be
derived from reading; yet the student who attends faithfully
to his other business, can find but a very limited portion
of time to be engaged in it during his collegiate course.
Today I have travelled about 12 miles on foot, in company
with a few of my classmates. We ascended a peak
of the Green Mountains, from which we could
take a survey of the surrounding country to a great
distance. The side upon which we ascended was perhaps
half a mile in extent, and so steep that much of the way
we had to creep upon our hands and knees. This was
vigorous exercise, and you may believe that we came
home tired enough. We started out at half past eight
o'clock this morning and got back to the village again
at four in the afternoon. I then stretched myself
upon the bed and remained supine till tea time.
Having been thus refreshed, I commenced scribbling this letter;
and if I finish it, you may consider yourself the last
one whom I shall serve in like manner today; for
I am too much fatigued for transacting any further business.
The summer term commences on wednesday next,
and a tedious time we shall have for twelve weeks to come.
In addition to the usual amount of study, we have to prepare for
an examination in the studies which we have attended
to during the two years past. Our task seems a for-
midable one, when viewed in the prospect; but a few

short weeks, and it will all be past.

I was grieved to learn from your last letter the indifference which you say you feel in regard to the subject of religion. On reading this, the question was immediately suggested, what could I do to aid you? Ah! thought I, I can pray, and I can entreat, ~~you~~. The first I have done, the last I will now do. But I was led still further to consider, whether ~~the~~ my own example and apparent coldness in regard to matters of religion, has been such as to diminish your zeal as a christian. If so, what entreaty shall I offer or how shall I atone for my offence? I hope that this may not be the case: though I am deeply sensible that my example has not been what it ought to have been, and that I have not conversed so freely with you as I ought on matters of religion, when I have been with you. I said I was grieved at this fact on reading your letter. I wished that I might be with you to converse with you freely. I have a desire to say many things to you: but my feelings will not allow me to commit them to paper. These few words are all that I will now add. Let me affectionately entreat you as a fellow traveller to eternity, to lose no time in gaining an interest in those truths which concern the soul's eternal welfare; in acquiring an active and abiding zeal in the service of the Redeemer; and seeking that heavenly peace, and quiet submission to the will of God, without which no man can be ultimately ~~blessed~~ and eternally blessed.

Affectionately your brother, Solon

P.S. (Write often)

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MAY
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VT.

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Mr. Edley Albee
Chester Vermont

Glen. Allen
1849